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RUSSIAN INVASION

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

IT'S invasion, Russia's sugar-coating by saying it is merely sending peacekeeping forces into Ukraine's rebel-held territories after recognising them, cannot absolve itself of the crime of invading a neighbour. It's not done. The time for war is here.

Russian President Putin's transgression drew angry sanctions from the West and validated predictions of his US counterpart about an imminent war in Ukraine.

The US said the Russian action amounted to the beginning of an invasion. However, there were differences among the Western allies on calling Russia's actions as invasion. "I wouldn't say that (it is) a full-fledged invasion, but Russian troops are on Ukrainian soil," said EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell.

But, as news filtered in of Russia's upper house of parliament giving Putin its approval to use military force outside the country, things looked grim as that could presage a broader attack on Ukraine.

Fears mounted that Russian forces may move deeper into the Ukrainian territory, beyond the separatist enclaves and aim for an assault of Kyiv, despite assurances by Kremlin that there are no such plans.

India reacted cautiously to the developments. While expressing deep concerns, New Delhi stopped short of criticising Russia. "These developments have the potential to undermine peace and security of the region. The priority is de-escalation of tensions taking into account the legitimate interests of all countries," said India's Permanent Representative to the UN, TS Tirumurti. P12

POINT OF CONFLICT

The self-proclaimed states of Donetsk and Lugansk are situated in the rust belt of eastern Ukraine. Moscow-backed forces in these territories have been locked in an armed conflict with Ukraine since Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014

HOW THEY REACTED

US The White House issued an executive order Monday to prohibit US investment and trade in the separatist regions

Germany Chancellor Olaf Scholz says he is suspending the Nord Stream 2 pipeline project with Russia in response to Moscow's recognition of the two breakaway regions

France President Emmanuel Macron has called for targeted EU sanctions against Moscow, as well as an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council

Britain Boris Johnson called it "a flagrant violation of sovereignty & integrity of Ukraine", GB slapped sanctions on five Russian banks & 3 billionaires

$100/barrel

International oil prices inched close to $100 a barrel after Russian president sent troops into Ukraine

242

Indians brought back from Ukraine on a special Air India flight

Crimea is Russia: Putin

Putin claimed that Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimean Peninsula should be internationally recognised as legitimate

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UNRAVELLING THE NSE CABAL

That the NSE was captured by P Chidambaram when he was FM and his cabal was outed by two major books, including one by Sucheta Dalal. The latest NSE scandal involving its then chief and a mysterious 'Yogi' must be seen as part of the bourse's fraudulent history and not just a case of irregular proxy control, writes **S Gurumurthy**

PAGE 9

4 more held for Harsha's murder, Shivamogga edgy

MARX TEJASWI @ Shivamogga

A day after two persons were arrested in connection with the murder of Bajrang Dal activist Harsha, the Shivamogga police have arrested four more persons. The police suspect that more may be involved in the case and are on the lookout.

A sense of unease continued to prevail on Tuesday with the city turning into a fortress. As many as 1,200 police personnel and the Rapid Action Force (RAF) are patrolling the city to maintain law and order. But some miscreants managed to set fire to three autorickshaws and two motorcycles in the wee hours of Tuesday.

The four arrested are Asif Ullah Khan, Rihan Sharif, Nihan and Abdul Afnan. On Monday, Mohammad Khasif (30) and Syed Nadeem were arrested. Superintendent of Police B M Laxmi Prasad told reporters that Khasif is the main accused while Nadeem is Accused No. 2. Asif Ullah Khan, Rihan Sharif, Nihan and Afnan are accused number three to six, respectively. Except for Khasif, the other accused are aged 21 and 22.

"All the accused are residents of the city. We detained 12 people and found that six were involved in the murder. Of the six, four are involved in crimes including assault, attempt to murder and rioting. The victim Harsha was also an accused in two cases of rioting and hurting religious sentiments, registered in 2016 and 2017," the SP said. P4

RAF personnel take out a route march in Shivamogga town on Tuesday | VINOD KUMAR T

14 FIRs REGISTERED

Fourteen cases have been registered with regard to rioting, arson and stone throwing incidents following Harsha's murder, the SP said.

Imran Khan invites Modi for TV debate to resolve issues

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

PAKISTAN Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday invited Narendra Modi for a TV debate to resolve the differences between the two countries.

"It would be beneficial for the people in the Indian subcontinent, if differences could be resolved through debate," Khan told Russia Today.

"Our only issue is Kashmir. Let's sit down and resolve it," Khan said.

There was no immediate reaction from the Ministry of External Affairs to Khan's comments. India has maintained that talks with Pakistan cannot happen so long as Islamabad supports terror groups that target India.

Speaking on trade relations with India, Khan said: "India became a hostile country so trade with them became minimal." In Moscow, Khan is scheduled to hold talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

daCunha/AB/797

EXPRESS READ

Nitish Kumar as Opposition's Presidential candidate?

New Delhi: NCP leader Nawab Malik on Tuesday said his party was ready to back the JDU leader Nitish Kumar for the office of President if the latter snapped ties with the BJP. This comes amid reports that political strategist Prashant Kishor has started lobbying among key opposition parties for Nitish's candidature| P9

Actor Chetan arrested over tweet on HC judge

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE Bengaluru City police on Tuesday arrested 38-year-old Sandalwood actor **Chetan Kumar Ahimsa** on charges of intentional insult to provoke breach of peace and statements amounting to public mischief. The actor has allegedly tweeted about a judge of the Karnataka High Court who is part of the three-judge bench hearing a batch of petitions on the hijab issue.

Chetan has been booked under Section 505 (2) (intent to incite a class or community to commit offence against another class or community) and Section 504 (intentionally insulting, thereby giving provocation to any person to break public peace) of the Indian Penal Code.

A senior police officer from Seshadripuram police station said a suo motu case was registered after the actor repeatedly tweeted about the High Court judge. CONTINUED ON: P5

- SANCTION FOR EVERY WOMAN TO WEAR HIJAB VIOLATES DIGNITY: AG P4
- MALPE RESTAURANT TARGETED

MARCH 4

BOMMAI TO PRESENT MAIDEN BUDGET

The Chief Minister has held a series of meetings with ministers in preparation for the budget | P6

Woman ends life over hubby's taunts on looks

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

HER husband's frequent taunts and chiding about her "ugly" looks allegedly drove a 32-year-old woman to take her own life, unable to bear his taunts anymore.

The incident occurred at DJ Halli on Monday afternoon, where the deceased Anisha lived with her husband Nizamuddin.

After Nizamuddin taunted her again on Monday afternoon, Anisha poured kerosene on herself and set herself ablaze. Neighbours doused the fire and rushed her to Victoria Hospital, but she succumbed on Tuesday.

Anisha's aggrieved parents lodged a complaint with the DJ Halli police, who detained Nizamuddin for questioning. They have taken up a case of abetment to suicide.

NATIONWIDE	FEB 21	FEB 22
Fresh cases	16,051	13,405
Recoveries	37,901	34,226
Deaths	206	235

KARNATAKA	FEB 21	FEB 22
Fresh cases	879	767
Recoveries	1,932	1,692
Deaths	21	29

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32,03,706 doses
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30,62,731 doses
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